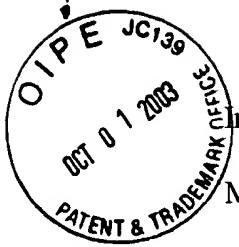


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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re Application of:

MASAHIKO KUBOTA, et al.

Application No.: 09/878,946

Filed: June 13, 2001

For: SOLID SEMICONDUCTOR
ELEMENT, INK TANK,
INK JET RECORDING
APPARATUS PROVIDED
WITH INK TANK, LIQUID
INFORMATION ACQUIRING
METHOD AND LIQUID
PHYSICAL PROPERTY CHANGE :
DISCRIMINATING METHOD)

Examiner: L. Liang

Group Art Unit: 2853

September 30, 2003

#20/IDS
10/8/03

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each document so listed is enclosed.

U.S. Patent 5,583,545
U.S. Patent 5,623,290
U.S. Patent 5,729,256
U.S. Patent 5,956,061
U.S. Patent 6,010,210
Europe 405,555
Europe 585,560
Europe 840,098

10/06/2003 MDANTE1 00000057 09878946

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Europe 878,316
Germany 198 09 855
Japan 56-39414
PCT/WO 98/52762
J.W. Haskell, "Ink Concentration Monitor", IBM Technical
Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 20, No. 2, July 1977.

These documents were cited during prosecution of a European patent application corresponding to the above U.S. application. A copy of the European Search Report, which is dated July 4, 2003, is enclosed. In view of this date, it is hereby certified under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) that each document in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.

This application has received a final action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113. Accordingly, this Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d) and is accompanied by the \$180.00 fee specified at 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p). Consideration of the art cited herein is accordingly deemed proper, and such action is respectfully requested.

Other documents cited in the Search Report have been cited in the Information Disclosure Statement dated January 13, 2003.

The concise explanation of relevance for the non-English documents cited above is provided in the European Search Report and by the English language abstracts included with the cited art. The Examiner is, of course, referred to the European Examiner's comments on the English language documents as well.

The European Search Report does not list English language counterparts of Japan 56-39414 or German 198 09 855, but an English language abstract of each has been located and is enclosed.

The Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialling the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Applicants

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